

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /120 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3151

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UK, PINT

SUBJECT: AGENDA FOR ANNUAL TUC CONGRESS

IN SEPTEMBER

SUMMARY. THE SOCIAL CONTRACT BETWEEN THE LABOR GOVERNMENT AND THE TUC WILL BE ONE OF THE MAJOR SUBJECTS FOR DEBATE WHEN THE ANNUAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS OPENS IN BRIGHTON ON SEPTEMBER 2. THE PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR THE CONGRESS CONTAINS RESOLUTIONS WHICH RANGE FROM EXPLICIT WELCOME FOR THE SOCIAL CONTRACT TO APPARENT OPPOSITION FROM THE LEFT-WING. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) ALSO IS AGAIN THE SUBJECT OF SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS, SOME CALLING EITHER FOR COMPLETE BRITISH WITHDRAWAL OR FOR A REFERENDUM ONCE THE TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP HAVE BEEN RENEGOTIATED

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BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. THE CONGRESS WILL ALSO SEE THE

READMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE TUC OF THE MAJORITY OF THE TWENTY UNIONS WHICH WERE EXPELLED BY LAST YEAR'S CONGRESS FOR REMAINING REGISTERED UNDER THE NOW-ABOLISHED INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT. END SUMMARY.

1. SOCIAL CONTRACT - THE TECHNICAL AND SUPERVISORY SECTION OF THE AMALGAMATED UNION OF ENGINEERING WORKERS (AUEW) HAS TABLED A MOTION FOR CONGRESS REJECTING SUGGESTIONS THAT WAGE RISES ARE A MAJOR FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO INFLATION AND ARGUING THAT A LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO INITIATE FAR MORE ACTION ON ITEMS LIKE REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH, LARGE DEFENSE CUTS, CONTROL OF PRICES AND INCREASED NATIONALIZATION OF HOUSING LAND BEFORE UNIONS COULD BE EXPECTED TO OFFER ANYTHING TO THE SOCIAL CONTRACT. AGAINST THIS, HOWEVER, ARE SEVERAL MOTIONS WHICH, WHILE ADVOCATING A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE POSITION OF LOW-PAID WORKERS AND OF WORKERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE THE TACIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TUC. IN PARTICULAR, UNIONS REPRESENTING PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS, SUCH AS THE CIVIL AND PUBLIC SERVICES ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, HAVE PUT FORWARD THIS LINE OF APPROACH. AN EVEN MORE MODERATE VIEW HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS (NUM) WHOSE MOTION FOR CONGRESS IN EFFECT BACKS THE SOCIAL CONTRACT BY STATING IT "GIVES FULL SUPPORT TO THE TUC-LABOR PARTY LIAISON COMMITTEE (WHICH INITIATED THE SOCIAL CONTRACT) IN EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING BRITAIN."

2. EUROPE - THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION (TGWU) HAS TABLED A MOTION IN THE PRELIMINARY AGENDA WHICH SIMPLY STATES: "CONGRESS DECLARES ITS CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO BRITAIN'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET." OTHER MOTIONS MORE CONVENTIONALLY REAFFIRM OPPOSITION TO THE ENTRY TERMS NEGOTIATED BY THE LAST CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT AND CALL FOR THE LABOR GOVERNMENT TO SPEED UP RENEGOTIATION AND TO HOLD A REFERENDUM OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE.

(B) ON THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION IN UNION ORGANIZATION  
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TIONS INSIDE THE COMMON MARKET, WHICH LAST YEAR'S CONGRESS OPPOSED, THE ENGINEERING SECTION OF THE AUEW HAS PROPOSED THAT UNION OPPOSITION TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE EC SHOULD NOT DETER THEM FROM USING EXISTING TIES BETWEEN BRITISH TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE UNIONS IN EUROPE TO DEFEND MEMBERS' INTERESTS, BUT IT POINTEDLY DOES NOT INCLUDE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS. ONLY THE RIGHT-WING ELECTRICAL AND PLUMBING TRADES UNION (EPTU) HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE

TUC SHOULD NOMINATE MEMBERS TO ALL COMMITTEES, INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH IT IS ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE WITHIN THE EC. BEARING IN MIND THE LARGE NUMBER OF VOTES WHICH BOTH THE TGWU AND AUEW COMMAND AT CONGRESS THE MOTIONS PUT FORWARD BY THESE UNIONS STAND A HIGH CHANCE OF SUCCESS AND THUS A CONTINUATION OF THE TUC'S CURRENT POLICY ON EUROPE.

3. TUC MEMBERSHIP - (A) AN ACT OF RECONCILIATION WILL

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TAKE PLACE AT THE SEPTEMBER CONGRESS WHEN MOST OF THE  
TWENTY UNIONS WHICH WERE EXPELLED FROM MEMBERSHIP LAST

YEAR FOR DEFYING TUC POLICY ON THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT WILL BE READMITTED. THIS WILL MEAN THAT, TOGETHER WITH GENERAL UNION RECRUITMENT, THE TUC'S OVERALL MEMBERSHIP SHOULD ONCE AGAIN BE WELL OVER THE TEN MILLION MARK. THE EXPELLED UNIONS REPRESENTED FOUR PERCENT OF THE TUC MEMBERSHIP - SOME 370,000 WORKERS.

(B) A NUMBER OF UNIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RE-AFFILIATED, INCLUDING THE BRITISH AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, THE NATIONAL UNION OF SEAMEN, THE BAKERS' UNION, THE SCOTTISH BAKERS AND THE FILM ARTISTES. AMONG OTHERS WHO HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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APPLIED FOR READMISSION ARE THE CONFEDERATION OF HEALTH SERVICE EMPLOYEES AND EQUITY, THE ACTORS' UNION. THE NATIONAL GRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION (NGA) HAS ALSO RE-APPLIED BUT COULD FACE OPPOSITION FROM OTHER PRINTING UNIONS WITHIN THE TUC FIRST, BECAUSE THE NGA TOOK NO STEPS TO DE-REGISTER UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT (THE UNION CLAIMED ITS RULE BOOK PREVENTED IT FROM DOING SO) AND SECONDLY, BECAUSE THE NGA IS CURRENTLY EMBROILED IN SEVERAL BITTER INTER-UNION DISPUTES WITHIN THE INDUSTRY.

(C) OF THE OTHER MAJOR "REBELS" ONLY THE NATIONAL UNION OF BANK EMPLOYEES (NUBE) HAS NOT APPLIED TO REJOIN THE TUC. HOWEVER, EVEN IF IT DID SO IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE OPPOSED BECAUSE IT NOT ONLY REMAINED REGISTERED UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT BUT ALSO USED THE ACT TO GAIN AGENCY SHOP AGREEMENTS. AT PRESENT THE NUBE IS INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS ON AMALGAMATION WITH A NUMBER OF BANK STAFF ASSOCIATIONS.

4. CONCLUSION - THE 1974 CONGRESS WILL BE HELD DURING WHAT IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO BE A RUN-UP PERIOD TO THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. THE UNION LEADERS ARE THEREFORE EXPECTED TO AIM FOR CONSENSUS AND UNITY - PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE SOCIAL CONTRACT - RATHER THAN THE ARGUMENTS AND DEEP DIVISIONS OF PREVIOUS YEARS BETWEEN THE RIGHT AND LEFT WINGS OF THE MOVEMENT. LEN MURRAY WILL BE ATTENDING HIS FIRST CONGRESS AS TUC GENERAL SECRETARY AND IS LIKELY TO CALL ON UNIONS TO FOLLOW THE TUC'S WAGE RESTRAINT GUIDELINES - RECENTLY PUT FORWARD AS THE TUC CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIAL CONTRACT - IN THE COMING ROUND OF WAGE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE AUTUMN. A TUC DOCUMENT, APPROVED BY ITS ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AUGUST 14, SPELLS OUT THAT LARGE POST-STAGE THREE PAY INCREASES WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN GIVEN OR PROMISED TO SUCH GROUPS AS NURSES, TEACHERS, RAILWAYMEN AND POSTMEN, SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS THE "NORM" IN THE AUTUMN WAGE NEGOTIATIONS. THE TONE OF THE DOCUMENT IS THAT CONGRESS SHOULD BE TOLD

THAT THE SOCIAL CONTRACT IS NOT A "SOFT OPTION" BUT INVOLVES A RESPONSE BY UNIONS IN THEIR WAGE NEGOTIATIONS. IF APPROVED BY THE FULL TUC GENERAL COUNCIL, THIS COULD FORM THE BASIS OF THE MESSAGE TO UNIONS AT CONGRESS.  
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## Message Attributes

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